

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 5 through 9, 18, 20 through 24, 47, 49, and 52 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 10, 11, 16, 25, 26, 46, and 48 and add Claims 53 through 61 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a generating unit that generates transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating ~~that the device actively starts data communication with an external device or~~ that the device passively executes data communication with an external device in accordance with an instruction from the external device which can actively start data communication;

an operation unit that causes a user to select a desired transfer information from the generated transfer information;

a reception unit that ~~receives image data from~~ actively starts data communication with a first device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information, to receive image data from the first device; and

a transmission unit that ~~transmits the received image data to~~ actively starts data communication with a second device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information, to transmit the received image data to the second device.

2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said reception unit transmits the selected transfer information to the first device in order to control the first device, and said transmission unit transmits the selected transfer information to the second device in order to control the second device.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

5 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a generating unit that generates transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a proxy device which converts ~~a data format~~ a first data type of image data to a second data type of image data, a first device which can transmit image data of ~~which the data format can be converted by the proxy device~~ the first data type, and a second device which can not process image data of the first data type but can process image data of which the data format is converted the second data type;

~~an acquisition unit that acquires the transfer information;~~

a reception unit that, at the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information, receives the image data of the first data type from the first device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information through a network;

a conversion unit that, at the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information, converts ~~a data format~~ of the received image data of the first data type to the image data of the second data type; and

a transmission unit that transmits the converted image data of the second data type from the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information to the second device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information through a network.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 10, further comprising an announcement unit that announces, to the network, information representing a data ~~format~~ type receivable by said reception unit and information representing a data ~~format~~ type transmittable by said transmission unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said conversion unit performs at least one of conversion of the data format, conversion of an image resolution, and conversion of an image depth.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said conversion unit performs at least one of image trimming, image enlargement, image reduction, image deformation, image edge extraction, and image color conversion.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said conversion unit performs at least one of conversion of the image data to coded data by encoding processing such as character recognition, conversion of the image data to a structured image format by image region separation processing and encoding processing, and conversion of coded data to the image data by rasterization image processing.

15. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein said conversion unit performs conversion of a data compression scheme or conversion of a data compression ratio.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting image data, said method comprising the steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating ~~that the device actively starts data communication with an external device~~ or that the device passively executes data communication with an external device in accordance with an instruction from the external device which can actively start data communication;

causing a user to select a desired transfer information from the generated transfer information; and

~~transmitting image data from a first device represented by the selected transfer information to~~ actively starting data communication with a first device represented by the selected transfer information and a second device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information, to transmit data, from the first device, to the second device.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein
in said transmitting step, the selected transfer information is transmitted to the first device in order to control the first device, and
in said transmitting step, the selected transfer information is transmitted to the second device in order to control the second device.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

20 - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting image data, said method comprising the steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a proxy device which converts a first data type of image data into a second data type of image data, ~~a data format~~; a first device which can transmit image data ~~which the proxy device can convert into the data format~~ of the first data type, and a second device which can not process image data of the first data type but can process image data of the second data type; ~~converted into the data format~~;

acquiring the transfer information;

receiving, at the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information, the image data of the first data type from the first device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information through a network;

converting, at the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information, the received image data of the first data type into the image data of the second data type; ~~a data format represented by the acquired transfer information~~; and

transmitting the converted image data of the second type from the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information to the second device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information through a network.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 25, further comprising an announcing step of announcing, to the network, information representing a data ~~format~~ type receivable in said receiving step and information representing a data ~~format~~ type transmittable in said transmitting step.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of conversion of the data format, conversion of an image resolution, and conversion of an image depth is performed.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of image trimming, image enlargement, image reduction, image deformation, image edge extraction, and image color conversion is performed.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, at least one of conversion of the image data to coded data by encoding processing such as character recognition, conversion of the image data to a structured image format by image region separation processing and encoding processing, and conversion of coded data to the image data by rasterization image processing is performed.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein, in said converting step, conversion of a data compression scheme or conversion of a data compression ratio is performed.

31 - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A computer executable program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, for making a computer execute data transmission, said program comprising the steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information ~~indicating that the device actively starts data communication with an external device~~ or that the device passively executes data communication with an external device in accordance with an instruction from the external device which can actively start data communication;

causing a user to select a desired transfer information from the generated transfer information; and

~~transmitting image data from a first device represented by the selected transfer information to~~ actively starting data communication with a first device represented by the selected transfer information and a second device represented by the selected transfer information on the basis of the selected transfer information, to transmit data, from the first device, to the second device.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A computer executable program embodied in a computer readable storage medium, for making a computer execute data transmission, said program comprising the steps of:

generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the plurality of devices including a proxy device which converts a first data type of image data into a second data type of image data, ~~a data format~~; a first device which can transmit image data ~~which the proxy device can convert into the data format~~ of the first data type, and a second device which can not process image data of the first data type but can process image data of the second data type; ~~converted into the data format~~;

~~acquiring the transfer information~~;

receiving, at the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information, the image data of the first data type from a first device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information through a network;

converting, at the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information, the received image data of the first data type into the image data of the second data type; ~~a data format represented by the acquired transfer information~~; and

transmitting the converted image data of the second type from the proxy device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information to the second device represented by the ~~acquired~~ generated transfer information through a network.

49 - 52. (Cancelled)

53. (New) A system, comprising:

a generating unit that generates transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating that the device actively starts data communication with an external device;

an operation unit that causes a user to select a desired transfer information from the generated transfer information;

a reception unit that passively executes data communication with a first device represented by the selected transfer information in accordance with an instruction from the first device, to receive image data from the first device; and

a transmission unit that passively executes data communication with a second device represented by the selected transfer information in accordance with an instruction from the second device, to transmit the received image data to the second device.

54. (New) The system according to claim 53, further comprising an acquisition unit that acquires the selected transfer information in order to receive the image data from the first device and transmit the image data to the second device.

55. (New) The system according to claim 53, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

56. (New) The system according to claim 53, further comprising an identification information reception unit that receives first identification information for identifying the generated transfer information from the first device and receives second identification information for identifying the generated transfer information,

wherein said transmission unit transmits the image data if the second identification information corresponds to the first identification information.

57. (New) A method, comprising:

a generating step of generating transfer information describing a combination of a plurality of devices on the basis of device information corresponding to each of the plurality of devices, the device information indicating that the device actively starts data communication with an external device;

an operation step of causing a user to select a desired transfer information from the generated transfer information;

a reception step of passively executing data communication with a first device represented by the selected transfer information in accordance with an instruction from the first device, to receive image data from the first device; and

a transmission step of passively executing data communication with a second device represented by the selected transfer information in accordance with an instruction from the second device, to transmit the received image data to the second device.

58. (New) The method according to claim 57, further comprising an acquisition step of acquiring the selected transfer information in order to receive the image data from the first device and transmit the image data to the second device.

59. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein the transfer information contains a protocol used to transfer the data, a data format of the data to be transferred, and an address representing a destination to which the data is to be transferred.

60. (New) The method according to claim 57, further comprising an identification information reception step of receiving first identification information for identifying the generated transfer information from the first device and receiving second identification information for identifying the generated transfer information,

wherein, in said transmission step, the image data is transmitted if the second identification information corresponds to the first identification information.

61. (New) The system according to claim 10, wherein the first data type is JPEG and the second data type is LIPSIV.